

## **Representing Resilience**

*Learning from yesterday, building a Stronger Tomorrow*

**Title:** "Everyone Deserves Their Springtime"

**Medium:** Oil on Canvas

**Size:** 48" x 60"

**Year Created:** 2020

**Artist Name for display:** The Alameda County DA Team:

Nancy O'Malley, District Attorney Alameda County: Concept & Vision;

Andrew Johnstone: Artist;

Regina Evans: Survivor Muse;

**Contact Name:** Nancy E. O'Malley

**Contact Information:** Nancy E. O'Malley, Alameda County District Attorney, 1225 Fallon Street Street, Room 900, Oakland, CA 94612

**Artist Statement:** (250-500 words) Attached

**Signed License Agreement and Agreement Release:** Attached

## Artist Statement

From Artist Andrew: As a Father of two girls, the fact that slavery still happens on the streets of my city leaves me numb with shock and rage. Yet as an artist, I try to make the inexpressible, unforgettable.

The art is called “**Everyone Deserves Their Springtime.**” The woman in the art is all of us – those in the anti-trafficking movement, those survivors once held in slavery, evolving from the darkness in the early years, to life, growth, joy and the beauty of the future for all. She, like all of us, give hope and love back into the darkness of human trafficking.

The art captures the **Advancements in the Field**, and how the anti-trafficking movement has transformed from images of chains, sadness, and hopelessness to life, hope, joy, beauty and freedom. We are the “WE” of transformation.

The art elevates by imagery what **transformation** looks like. From slavery and despair captured with the chains fading down into black, to the life of a growing vine moving upward to the beauty of the woman’s face capturing beauty of life through the flowers that are surrounding her with color, energy and growth.

The art captures the reality of **invisibility and visibility**. The darkness surrounding the woman reflects the darkness of human trafficking. Yet from the darkness of despair, we see the survivor visible with hope, happiness, and elevating into her future.

Springtime is a sign of growth, of newness. Springtime follows a dark Winter. Springtime brings growth and re-birth. For twenty years, the anti-trafficking movement -- “WE” -- have worked to transform despair to hope, invisible to visible, despondency into a future. Her eyes represent openness, enthusiasm and hopefulness – she, like “WE”, have transformed from the past.

The vine in her hand is transformation from the chains that once held her in slavery. As she looks upward, she guides the “WE” to also look upward believing that with transformation there is an openness for the future. An upturned face beaming with expectation and the broken chains of peonage are now replaced by a delicate chain of daisies.

Artist Andrew was blessed to be guided by DA Nancy O'Malley, a long-time leader in the fight to combat Human Trafficking, and by Regina Evans, herself a survivor and advocate for human trafficking victims in Oakland. The “Alameda County DA Team” sought to capture the fine line between hope, growth and transformation without losing focus of the tragic reality of entrapment and bondage.

Abolitionists, survivors and those still held in slavery embrace transformation and rebirth, not darkness and despair.

We hope the art conveys how the anti-trafficking field -- the "WE" -- have created opportunities for victims to become survivors. As with the Springtime, the growth of life and season brings transformation which brings hope; the woman is a survivor whose beauty comes from the ashes of despair, marginalization and hopelessness. "WE" too have come from the darkness of winter -- the past -- to Springtime.

Everyone deserves their Springtime.